

Catrow Indicted With 6 More in Big Rum Fraud

Withdrawal of \$30,000 Whisky on Illegal Permits and Passage of Bribe of \$20,000 Are Charged

Accused Give \$5,000 Bond

Former Aid to Dry Chief Alleges He Is Victim of Plot to Defame His Character

Colonel Herbert G. Catrow, assistant Federal prohibition director of New York State from November 28, 1921, to January 5, 1922, gave bond of \$5,000 before Federal Judge Meek yesterday when the court seal of secrecy was removed from a blanket indictment naming him and five other individuals and a corporation on charges of releasing illegally 1,000 cases of whisky under four alleged fraudulent permits. It is charged that \$30,000 was involved in the transactions and that a bribe of \$20,000 was passed.

Colonel Catrow, through his attorney, Nash Rockwood, denied yesterday all allegations in the indictment and said he was a victim of a conspiracy to defame his character.

Six Others Accused

Indicted with Colonel Catrow are Samuel P. Buckley and Benjamin Silver, who together constitute the Progressive Drug Company, 1338 Park Avenue; David F. McGowan, advertising man; Frank Fallon, cigar salesman; Walter Ruby, salesman; and the Hill & Hill Distilling Company, of Frankfort, Ky., with New York offices at 47 West Twenty-seventh Street, in the same building where the Federal prohibition offices used to be. All gave \$5,000 bond.

The indictment charges that the defendants entered into a conspiracy among themselves and with other individuals and corporations unknown to defraud the United States by withdrawing liquors for non-beverage purposes. It is charged that in furtherance of the conspiracy Colonel Catrow as assistant prohibition director issued and approved four withdrawal permits for liquor in amounts which the alleged conspirators knew was in excess of the legal amount allowed under the basic wholesale drug liquor permit held by the Progressive company. It is charged that the Hill & Hill Distilling Company honored these permits and sold the liquor to the defendant drug company. The bribery charge is set forth in the indictment as follows:

"On or about December 27, 1921, the said Benjamin Silver handed and delivered to David F. McGowan the sum of \$20,000 in currency, which was not any part of \$30,000, the purchase price of the whisky already paid to the Hill & Hill Distilling Company, against the peace of the United States and their dignity and contrary to the statute of the United States provided in such case."

Controversy Brought on Indictment
The indictment grew out of a controversy between Director Ralph A. Day and Colonel Catrow, who had been close friends up to last Christmas. Shortly afterward Colonel Catrow issued a statement that he was going to sue Mr. Day for \$300,000 for slanderous utterances. Day denied the statement. Colonel Catrow denied the resignation, but his pay stopped and the United States District Attorney took up the investigation of his administration of the assistant directorship, in which capacity Colonel Catrow passed upon many permits.

Director Day yesterday refused to discuss the indictments. Attorney Rockwood said:

"Colonel Catrow says he is absolutely

innocent of any wrongdoing whatever. He saw the indictment to-day for the first time. Colonel Catrow says that, with the exception of signing his official name to the withdrawal permits, he had no other connection with the matter whatever, and further states the fact of the withdrawals was well known to Prohibition Director Day and that there was at no time any secrecy about the matter. He permits being signed in the ordinary course of the official routine of the office. Colonel Catrow feels he is being persecuted and unjustly accused."

1,510 Sail, Setting Mark for Season on Aquitanla

Alma Gluck Leaves to Greet for First Time Her Husband's Parents

The Cunard liner Aquitanla left port yesterday for Cherbourg and Southampton with 1,510 travelers, the largest passenger complement she has taken this season. An hour before her gangplank was hauled ashore it is estimated that at least 2,500 guests boarded the vessel to say good-bye to relatives and friends.

Among the saloon passengers was Alma Gluck, the soprano, whose husband, Efram Zimbalist, the violinist, is steaming westward on the Pacific for a tour of China and Japan.

The singer said she was on her way to Leipzig, where she is to meet for the first time the parents of her husband, who, with their four children, escaped recently from Russia and are now in Constantinople.

"I can imagine six pairs of eyes searching me critically," she said, "as it is the first time they have seen Efram's wife. I suppose they will like me—at least, they should like me, for it is my plan to buy a home for them in Leipzig, where they are to remain permanently."

Among others sailing were David Wark Griffith, Mrs. Peter Cooper-Hewitt, Mrs. Frederick W. Whitridge, Mrs. F. D. Doubleday, Mrs. Robert Hoe, Mrs. Eleanor J. Spreckels, and Miss Marie Doro.

New Britain Elects Democrat Mayor; Normally Republican
HARTFORD, Conn., April 11.—Anthony S. Paonessa, an alderman, was elected Mayor of New Britain to-day by a majority of 307 over his Republican opponent, former Mayor George A. Ingley, who won the nomination in the Republican primaries, defeating the present mayor, George Curtis. New Britain normally is Republican by about 2,000.

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Expect Veto of Bill That Might Parole Brindell

Miller Indicates Disapproval of Westall Measure to Release First Offenders, After Hearing Objections

From a Staff Correspondent

ALBANY, April 11.—At the hearing to-day on the Westall parole bill, which it is said, was drafted to benefit Robert P. Brindell, the former soda water clerk who "jimmied" his way to the head of the building trades of New York City and then grafted on workmen and employers, for which crime he is now in prison, Governor Miller indicated that he would veto it.

The bill, which would permit the parole of all first offenders in prison after serving one year, was opposed by the New York County Lawyers' Association, the State Parole Board, the State Superintendent of Prisons and district attorneys.

Covers Second Offenders Also

District Attorney John E. Ruston of Kings said that felons sentenced for vicious crimes should not be paroled at the end of their first year in prison. Deputy Attorney General William H. Henderman, who appeared for the State Superintendent of Prisons, Charles F. Rattigan, said that the bill was so drawn that second offenders might be paroled. He pointed out that it made no provision for the return of prisoners who violated the provisions of their parole.

Henry Melville, president of the board of managers of Elmira Reforma-

tory, said that the measure might easily disrupt the reformatory parole system.

The Rev. Father William Cashion, Catholic chaplain of Sing Sing prison, took issue with Mr. Melville, and insisted that the bill did not conflict in any way with the reformatory parole system.

"This measure will permit the parole board to do what courts have not the time to do—inquire into the social causes that sent the men to prison," said Father Cashion. "More than 40 per cent of the men received at Sing Sing in the last ten years did not have the benefit of trial by jury. Most of them pleaded guilty."

Miller Questions Priest
Here the Governor remarked that in

nocent men usually did not plead guilty, and asked Father Cashion if he did not think that it was going too far to parole a felon who had served only one year of his sentence. Father Cashion answered that the problem could properly be left to the Parole Board.

Another Brindell bill, so called, which was introduced by Brindell's former counsel, Assemblyman John J. O'Connor, of New York, also is before the Governor. No hearing has been asked on it, and the Governor has not yet given it any consideration. This measure would permit the courts to revoke or suspend sentences where more than one sentence has been imposed after the first has been served. It is believed that the Governor will veto the O'Connor bill.

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